

# 4 CONFESS TO HIJACKING AT LIVERMORE

TRIB D FEB 9 - 1933  
Four Men, Arrested for  
Seizure of Alcohol-Laden  
Truck, Admit Charges

Four men, three of them brothers, arrested in raids at Modesto last night, confessed at the Alameda County jail today, authorities reported, that they kidnaped the driver and hijacked an alcohol-laden truck near Livermore last Saturday. The brothers surrendered after a gun battle.

The hijacking was accomplished in broad daylight. Massino Civello, 29, of Berkeley, the truck driver, was held captive ten hours while the hijackers sought to force him to reveal the source of the 85 five-gallon cans of alcohol in the truck.

Civello led the Alameda County officers to the hideouts of his assailants at Modesto. The brothers, Salvatore, 19; Nick, 21, and Pasky Curci, 20, were surrounded in a home on the outskirts of the town.

## FIRES TWO SHOTS

As Deputy Sheriffs Harry Adams and Douglass Webb, with Lieut. Oscar Jahnssen and George Henningson of the district attorney's office, broke through the door, Nick Curci drew a pistol and fired twice. The bullets splintered woodwork and before Curci could fire again, Webb was upon him, knocking the gun from his hand.

The fourth man, Edward Varni, was arrested in a Modesto hangout which the officers asserted was conducted as a speakeasy.

Stopping Civello on the Dublin-Livermore highway near the Livermore airport at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, the hijackers forced him to relinquish the wheel of the truck, and accompany them in a drive that ended at Modesto.

## THREATENED DEATH

On the way, the hijackers threatened to throw Civello in the river, he reported, unless he disclosed the still which produced the alcohol in the truck.

Civello protested that he did not know its location, and at 10 o'clock Saturday night, his captors threw him off the truck. They then transferred the alcohol to another vehicle and permitted Civello to take the truck and drive away.

In their reported confession, made at the district attorney's office, the four men claim they hijacked the liquor only because the wholesale bootlegger for whom Civello drove the truck, owed them \$1000 which he refused to pay. Civello was engaged in running the alcohol from a still in San Joaquin County to Alameda, where the owner of the truck is reported to live.

Modesto authorities reported having had the Curci brothers under investigation after two speakeasies, whose proprietors had refused to purchase a certain brand of alcohol, were invaded by a "wrecking crew" and their interiors smashed.

## Two Arrested in County Rum Raid

LIVERMORE, Jan. 9.—Livermore's "Little Volstead Act," which the City Council decided to retain, was invoked Saturday for the first time since the Wright Act was repealed.

Chief of Police George N. Doten, assisted by Deputy Sheriff L. E. Van Patten, raided a resort on South Livermore Avenue and R. B. Smith, 25, and his brother, T. E. Smith, 23, were arrested and spent the week-end in the City Jail. They were to face Police Judge M. J. Clark today.

The officers confiscated 300 bottles of beer and a quantity of whisky, rum, gin and grenadine, according to Chief Doten.

## Courtroom Piled High With Liquor

LIVERMORE, Aug. 14.—As a result of a series of raids made during the last two weeks by deputies from the office of Sheriff B. M. Driver the back room of the court of Justice of the Peace M. J. Clark is piled high with assorted liquors. It is doubtful, according to Judge Clark, whether any Livermore saloon ever carried a larger stock in the days before prohibition.

As convictions have been obtained in all cases the liquor is to be destroyed within a few days. Although there are a few kegs and barrels most of the stock is in bottles. In the assortment are a number of cases of rare wines taken in a raid upon a local bottling plant.

## Three Bootleggers Nabbed in Livermore

LIVERMORE, Feb. 4.—Raiders from the office of Sheriff M. B. Driver arrested three men in Livermore and vicinity early today on bootlegging charges.

Two pleaded guilty to sale of liquor and were fined \$150 each by Justice of the Peace Manley Clark. The other elected to take 30 days in jail instead of the fine.

Those fined were Jack Morrow, 139 East First street and John Verkota, 1289 West Second street; Frank J. Lewis, 610 Marin street, Pleasanton, went to jail.

No liquor was found in any of the establishments. The raids were based on search warrants following sales to undercover operatives.

## 'HIGH CLASS' SALOON RAIDED

LIVERMORE, Nov. 18.—Raiders from the office of Sheriff M. B. Driver early today forced entrance to what they characterized as a "high-class saloon" at Second and L streets and arrested two men, who later paid fines of \$250 each in the court of Judge M. J. Clark.

The two were John Vukota, alleged proprietor, and Joe Granna, said to be the bartender.

Both were charged with sale of liquor.

Today Vukota will be accused of selling tobacco without a city license, Deputy Sheriff Frank Swain, chief of the raiding posse, said.



# SEVEN TAKEN IN DRY RAIDS

TRIB D — AUG 24 1934

LIVERMORE, Aug. 23.—Twenty Livermore "speakeasies" were raided last night and six men and a woman were taken into custody by a posse of county enforcement officers headed by County Detective Oscar Janson and Deputy Sheriff Frank Swain of Sheriff M. B. Driver's office.

Four places were closed, three bars wrecked, a considerable amount of liquor was confiscated, and a total of \$1150 in fines collected by Justice of the Peace M. J. Clark, recently appointed, as the result of the raids.

George Coughlin, 263 First street, pleaded guilty and was fined \$250. His bartender, Joseph Duarte, paid \$150, and an assistant, Jack Sanders, paid \$100. John Vaperga, 30 Livermore avenue, paid \$250, and his assistant, Frank Silva, was fined \$150. Victor Pagano, 139 First street, was assessed \$250 after pleading guilty.

The woman, Mrs. Milka Korich, asked Judge Clark to grant her a week to decide what plea to make. She was given until Thursday to make her decision and released on her own recognizance.

Later the raiders went to Pleasanton, where they arrested Louis Glasser, proprietor of the Colombe hotel; Fred Bianci and Anton Martini. Glasser was fined \$300 in the court of Justice of the Peace E. C. Quinn, and the other pair \$50 each.

## Sheriff Driver And Federals Raid 2 Places

ALAMEDA county sheriff doesn't take "Sunday off", bootleggers found yesterday.

Accompanied by his chief deputy, Frank Swain, and Oscar Jahnson from the district attorney's office, Sheriff M. B. Driver swooped down on a rooming house at 122 East First street, Livermore, where they arrested W. G. Kenyon and Manuel Santana and confiscated a quantity of liquor.

The two men were to appear before Justice George S. Fitzgerald in Livermore today on the liquor charge.

Federals also staged a raid in the Eastbay, at the Florence Italian restaurant at Niles, where they confiscated 10 gallons of wine and arrested Halo and Marion Brogali, brothers, on a charge of violating the Volstead act.

## Woman Pays \$200 Fine for Liquor

LIVERMORE, Feb. 18.—Mrs. M. Corach was fined \$200 in police court yesterday morning when she pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of liquor. Her place was raided Tuesday night by Deputy Sheriffs L. E. Van Patten and Hugo Radbruch, with assistance of the local police.

## **Four Arrested as Possessors of Liquor**

LIVERMORE, Dec. 13. — Cases against four persons seized by deputies of Sheriff Burton F. Becker on charges of possessing liquor, will be heard Tuesday before Justice G. S. Fitzgerald. They are J. G. Casey and his wife Elizabeth of 707 North O street, W. F. Kaiser, Railroad avenue, and Frank Mozocco, 169 East I street. Raiders claim that they found three gallons of whisky at the Casey home and both wine and whisky in the other two places.

## **FOUR ARRESTED IN DRY RAID**

LIVERMORE, July 13. — Federal prohibition agents swooped down on proprietors of soft-drink parlors here today and arrested four alleged violators of the prohibition laws. The men arrested, all accused of sale of intoxicating liquor, are:

Frank J. Silva, proprietor of the Railroad bar; Stephen Ferrario, owner of a soft drink establishment at First street and Livermore avenue; Frank Mazzacco, owner of Sweeney's restaurant, and his bartender, John Franco. The men are in the county jail.

## **700 Gallons of Alcohol Dumped Down Sewers**

Seagulls operating in the vicinity of Oakland storm sewer outlet will have a rare treat some time today when the head of 700 gallons of 193-proof alcohol reaches there.

The liquid, valued at \$9,800, was dumped into the sewer today at the Alameda county jail on the orders of Sheriff Burton F. Becker. A. R. Shurtleff, chief criminal deputy, supervised the dumping.

The liquor destroyed represented 140 cans of alcohol seized when a truck was stopped at Livermore early in January after an all night vigil by Shurtleff and Deputy Sheriff J. J. Collier.

## DEPUTIES GRAB ALCOHOL TRUCK

An all night vigil by three deputy sheriffs near Livermore was rewarded early this morning when they captured a truck, carrying 75 cases of industrial alcohol. The truck is believed to be one of the fleet that has been running into the San Joaquin valley from San Francisco.

The truck was driven by Floyd Wilson. Accompanying him was Edward Harris. Both gave their address as the Hotel St. Mark, Oakland. They were booked on charges of transportation and possession of liquor.

The arrests were made by Deputies A. R. Shurtleff, J. J. Collier and J. L. Davis.

## \$15,000 in Alcohol Seized on Truck

SPECIAL BY WIRE  
TO THE TRIBUNE

LIVERMORE, Feb. 14. — Grain alcohol estimated worth \$15,000 was seized here last night when Deputy Sheriff L. A. Van Patten and assistants stopped a truck on the highway near Altamont, said to be inbound from Fresno. Two men, who gave the names of George Dolan and John Prola, were arrested and taken to the county jail.